[9th December 1954

Abolition of the First-class Bench Court at Erode.

* 175 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY: Will the Hon. the Miinister for Finance be pleased to state whether the First-Class Bench Court at Erode has been abolished?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The First-class Bench Court at Erode is not functioning since October 1953."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" இந்தக் கோர்ட்டை இந்த இடத்திலிருந்து எடுத்ததினால் ஜனங்கள் அதிக கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். மறுபடியும் ஒரு கோர்ட்டை அமைப்பதற்கு சர்க்கார் உத்தேசித்திருக்கிறதா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir. The Collector has been instructed to make proposals for the constitution of a court at Erode."

Stock of paddy and rice in Malabar.

* 176 *Q.*—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN (on behalf of Sri K. C. Gopalan Unni): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of paddy and rice in stock in Malabar district on 11th July 1954; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce the price of rice and paddy issued through fair price depots?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) There was a stock of 34,460 tons of rice and 7,814 tons of paddy in Malabar district as on the 11th July 1954.

" (*b*) No, Sir."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" In view of the fact that the prices of paddy and rice sold through the fair price shops are higher than the market rate and in view of the fact that stocks of such paddy and rice have got accumulated, will the Government consider the question of selling these at reduced rates—the prices being reduced to the level of market rates? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no question now of reducing the prices of stocks sold at the fair price shops because the Government see that there is no need for such shops at all since rice is freely available at reasonable rates in the open market."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" In view of the fact that there is no need for fair price shops now, may I know whether the Government have taken over all stocks held by private owners and the producer-*cum*-consumer co-operative societies in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."